

WIC Local Agency Conference Call Minutes for January 5, 2012

Attendees: Joan Bowsher, Leah Steinle, Chris Fogelman, Bree Thompson, Carrie Reynolds, Bobbi Walker, Denise Brunett, Denise Higgins

Local Agency Participants: **Broadwader:** Dianna Hall, Linda Campbell **Cascade:** Lynn Bedosky, Jo-Vivianne Jones **Custer:** Vicky Tusler, Arlene Singer, Mindi Murnion, Esther Wynne, Anna Stobaugh, Karen Nissley **Dawson:** Connie Udem, Brenda Mischel **Deer Lodge:** Joann Proxell, Heidi Nielsen, Mary Ann VanCleave **Fergus:** Jane Timpano, Shirley Ernst **Flathead:** Kimberly Winchell, Jodi White **Gallatin:** Darcy Hunter, Liz Wildman, Marlene Eickelberg **Lake:** Emily Colomeda, Bobette Bertsch, Leigh Estvold **Lewis and Clark:** Maggie Petaja **Lincoln:** Linda Wagner, Peggy Smith **Missoula:** Michelle Baker, Arwyn Weland **Ravalli:** Jackie Cenis, Teresa Messerman, Margaret Reardon **Sanders:** Karen Dwyer **Sheridan:** Vicki Ruby, Kathy Jensen **Silver Bow:** Lori Stenson, Julia Coyne **Teton:** Lora Weir, Cynthia Grubb **Valley:** Julie Lawson **RiverStone:** Gayle Espeseth **Fort Peck:** Irene Evenson, Teresa Rorvik **N Cheyenne:** Lisa Pretty On Top **Blackfeet:** Dorothy Champine, JoAnn Running Crane, Brittany Burns **CS&K:** Gina Lozar **Fort Belknap:** Barb Skoyen

Program Updates-Joan

- Bernadette Lahr is the new Administrative Specialist. Her number is 406-444-0909 and her email is blahr@mt.gov
- WSCA will rebid the infant formula rebate contract. This may result in a change of standard formula as soon as October 2012
 - State will keep LA informed and help with transition if necessary
- 3 LA are going out for RFP due to no being associated with a local public health agency or tribal government. We are following state administrative rules.
 - Custer, Fergus and Valley local agencies will be affected
- WIC Future Study Group will meet January 31, 2012, in Billings. Agenda items include:
 - RFP process for 3 LA
 - New policy regarding monitoring and the number and severity of findings. This will help the program move towards being performance based
- Funding
 - Grant allocation for 2012 is a little less than last year
 - State submitted OA requests and hope to hear back by the end of the month
 - OA requests were for: Caseload maintenance, WIC Future Study Group, Temp RD, LA training, remodel of two LA who asked for funding, and a couple nutrition projects for LA who asked for funding
- EBT-All reports submitted!
 - Once approved we can move forward
 - We will work with SNAP/TANF for implementation RFP
 - Hope to be fully implemented by summer 2013
- Reminder of NWA conference in Denver this year

- Family and Community Health Spring Meeting will start on April 17 in Billings. Chris will review agenda for CEU's

Food Dollars Spent, Farm Direct and FNMP- Carrie and Bree

- If you would like to know the food dollars spent for your LA spent during FFY 2011, please email Carrie or Bree
- Statewide \$12, 992,458.47 food dollars were spent in FFY 2011
- Farm Direct Summary (LA numbers were sent via email)
 - Overall, 144 farmers participated
 - 449 FVB redeemed for a total of around \$3,000
- FNMP Summary (LA numbers were sent via email)
 - Numbers are based on farmers and location
 - Overall, 7,936 benefits redeemed (47%) which is up a little bit from last year
 - There will be fewer administration dollars next year. Meet with staff and see how you can make them go further
 - A letter was sent out by Bree explaining what to use WIC funds for and what to use for FMNP. Email her if you did not receive a copy.
 - Nutrition education for FNMP
 - Contact other agencies to see what they're doing
 - Cascade and Flathead have good examples
- Overall redemption of the FVB for the farmers' market period is 78% statewide, which is an increase from last year

WIChealth.org- Tara

- WIChealth is now recording monthly webinars
- They are developing a self-guided training
- A good suggestion is have one person per clinic make follow up calls once the participant has sent in certificate. Also, it's a good idea to let them know when you'd like them to complete it so there is no lapse in benefits
- WIChealth.org is only for low risk participants or those approved by the RD to participate
- Make sure participants have all information on WIChealth.org before they leave the office, including the appropriate email address for the certificate
- Must enter zeros before participant ID
- You may try out WIChealth.org by using the username: montanademo and password: wichealth
- Email Tara if you have any questions

Civil Rights- Chris

- LA without complete documentation are: Cascade, Custer, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Hill, Lewis and Clark, Sanders, RiverStone, Blackfeet and Crow
 - Make sure the BFPC receive this education as well

- Contact Chris if you have any questions about what's missing

BFPC Conference Call- Chris

- There will now be a conference call for the BFPC program immediately following the local agency conference call, which will start in March
- All supervisors and BFPC are invited to attend
- The dates will be published in the newsletter
- Email Chris agenda items
- This is a good time to share ideas

Mid-Certification Appointment Notice- Chris and Bobbi

- Please review chapter 6 of the state plan on the website because it was updated (ie-there is a range of when you can perform mid-cert)
- Please use Mid-Cert Assessment for appointment type
 - The default time is 20 minutes
 - You can change both the name and default time. Directions will be in the newsletter or call Bobbi for assistance
- There is now a "Mid-Cert Assessment" note subject type
- The mid-cert template is available online at wic.mt.gov/localagencies/vena
- If you would like the template in a Word format, please email Chris

M-SPIRIT Training-Bobbi

- You MUST manually change the Food Prescriptions when you change Amount of Breastfeeding. When changing the **Amount of Breastfeeding**, you should manually verify the Mom's and Infant's food package. You cannot count on the system to change them for you. Mom's food package will never automatically be changed and the infant's food package will only be changed automatically if you change the **breastfeeding amount** directly in the infant's record. Over Issuance of baby meats and F&V is occurring and Mom can potentially receive fish and other extra items that she is not entitled.
 - If the State Office continues to see over Issuance of these foods, due to clinic CPAs not examining the food prescription after the **Amount of Breastfeeding** has changed, clinics will be held financially responsible for over Issuance of these foods.
- **Will the clinic be charged for Over Issuance if benefits extend past the Certification End date?**
No, M-SPIRIT issues full-month benefits after the first set under all conditions. Also, you do not have to "edit down" the last set of benefits that straddles the end of the cert.
- **Do not have multiple household records open at the same time!**
 - You must not have multiple household member records open at the same time. A single clinic person should not have multiple household members' open on the computer nor should multiple clinic personnel be in the same household's records at one time. For example:
 - Do not have Mom and Baby open at the same time.
 - Do not have siblings open at the same time.

- Do not have Mom and anyone open at the same time.
 - Do not have one household member open at one computer and have the same person, or another household member, open at another computer.
- **How to avoid this:**
 - In a clinic where a participant is handled by more than one clinic person, come up with formal procedures for how to ensure that two people are not in a household's file at the same time.
 - If a clinic person needs to access multiple household members, use the "Work With Another Household Member" function from either the Participant Folder or the CGS. This will automatically close one household member before opening

Redemption of FVB-Carrie and Bree

- Redemption is starting to go down a little bit for this FFY
- Good websites to go to for ideas on lesson plans, shopping tips and more are:
http://www.floridawic.org/pages/nutrition/story_time.htm and <https://www.foodhero.org/>
- Clinic ideas and suggestions to increase redemption
 - Cynthia, Pondera County: stickers on packets as reminders
 - Maggie, L&C: baskets of fruit you can buy around the office. Motivates kids to want to eat fruit
 - Lisa, Northern Cheyenne: ask stores if they can make packages of produce in set amounts that correlate with FVB dollar amounts
 - Jo-Vivienne, Cascade: gift basket drawing of fruits and veggies along with small related items and then they publish the picture of winner in newsletter. 99 participants started out participating and it's now up to 207. Also collaborate with MSU extension for cooking demos and samples in waiting room along with recipes.
 - Trinity, Hill: works with MSU extension for cooking demonstrations. Offer a flexible cutting board and calculator as incentives.
- State suggestions to increase redemption
 - Spend time talking with stores and see if they will encourage participants to spend their FVB at their store
 - Ask stores to put baskets or fruit by the register to get the most out of the FVB in case they are a little bit under the value
 - Remind participants that frozen vegetables are approved if they are unsatisfied with the produce available
- Remind participants that they CANNOT go over the dollar amount on the benefit and pay the difference

Enfacare Newborn- Chris

- Enfacare Newborn was pulled from some store shelves due to a possible link between the formula and a bacterial infection in 4 infants
- All samples indicate that it was not the formula that caused the infections

- For more information, go to the CDC website:
http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/s1230_cronobacter.html
- Encourage participants to read the can of formula to get correct water temperature for safe consumption

Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) - Denise Brunett

- Some WIC participants may benefit from the financial assistance available through CSHS
 - Genetic Lab Services
 - CSHS can help pay for genetic lab services. There are no age restrictions and they can offer up to \$10,000/request.
 - Soon the application will be on cshs.mt.gov. Please call 800-762-9891 with questions or referrals
 - Children and Youth Special Health Care Needs
 - Must be under 19 and have a qualifying condition
 - There is a \$2,000/request cap per year
 - Go to cshs.mt.gov for more information and the application